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Amdt. dated May 24, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2004

### CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

1           1.       (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
2                   presenting a user interface in a test system;  
3                   receiving user selection through the user interface pertaining to  
4       environment information of a target database system to extract; and  
5                   receiving, by the test system, the environment information extracted based  
6       on the user selection from the target database system, wherein the test system is separate  
7       from the target database system.

1           2.       (Cancelled)

1           3.       (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2       emulating the target database system in the test system using the received environment  
3       information.

1           4.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein presenting the user interface  
2       comprises presenting plural screens each containing at least a graphical user interface  
3       element that is user selectable.

1           5.       (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the screens  
2       comprises presenting a screen containing graphical user interface elements selectable by  
3       a user to select, for extraction, one of environment information associated with an entire  
4       database in the target database system and environment information associated with  
5       tables referenced by a query.

1           6.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein presenting the user interface  
2       comprises presenting user-selectable options corresponding to types of environment  
3       information to extract from the target database system.

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1           7.       (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein presenting the user-selectable  
2 options comprises presenting options corresponding to statistics information and cost  
3 parameters.

1           8.       (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein presenting the user-selectable  
2 options comprises presenting a further option corresponding to data relating to definitions  
3 of relations.

1           9.       (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein presenting the user-selectable  
2 options comprises presenting a further option corresponding to samples associated with  
3 access modules.

1           10.      (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the  
2 environment information in the user interface.

1           11.      (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein presenting the user interface  
2 comprises providing a user-selectable element that when activated enables editing of the  
3 environment information.

1           12.      (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the received  
2 environment information in plural files.

1           13.      (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein presenting a user-selectable  
2 element that when activated causes the files to be combined.

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1           14.     (Previously Presented) A first system comprising:  
2                     a processor;  
3                     a display; and  
4                     software executable on the processor to present a user interface in the  
5 display,  
6                     the user interface comprising user-selectable elements to indicate  
7 environment information to export from a target database system separate from the first  
8 system.

1           15.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, wherein the software  
2 is executable on the processor to export the environment information from the target  
3 database system.

1           16.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, wherein the user  
2 interface comprises plural screens containing the user-selectable elements.

1           17.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 16, wherein one of the  
2 plural screens contains a first user-selectable element to indicate extraction of  
3 environment information associated with a database of the target database system.

1           18.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 17, wherein another one  
2 of the plural screens contains a second user-selectable element to indicate extraction of  
3 environment information associated with one or more tables associated with a query in  
4 the target database system.

1           19.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 18, wherein the other one  
2 of the plural screens comprises a query selection element to select one or plural queries  
3 for which environment information is to be extracted.

1           20.     (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 19, wherein the query  
2 selection element enables selection of the one or plural queries from a file.

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1           21.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 19, wherein the query  
2   selection element enables selection of the one or more plural queries from a query capture  
3   database.

1           22.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, wherein the user-  
2   selectable elements indicate one or more types of the environment information to export.

1           23.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 22, wherein the one or  
2   more types of the environment information comprises one or more of the following:  
3   statistics information, cost information, information pertaining to definition of relations,  
4   and samples of data demographics of access modules in the target database system.

1           24.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, wherein the user-  
2   selectable elements comprise an element to enable editing of the environment  
3   information.

1           25.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 24, wherein the user-  
2   selectable elements further comprise another element to undo editing of the environment  
3   information.

1           26.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 24, wherein the software  
2   is executable to display the environment information in the display.

1           27.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, wherein the software  
2   is executable to export the environment information from the target database system and  
3   subsequently to import the environment information to a test system.

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1           28.   (Previously Presented) An article comprising at least one storage medium  
2   containing instructions that when executed cause a first system to:  
3                present a user interface;  
4                receive user selection made in the user interface indicating environment  
5   information to extract from a target database system separate from the first system; and  
6                receive the environment information extracted based on the user selection  
7   from the target database system.

1           29.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions  
2   when executed cause the first system to import the environment information to a test  
3   system.

1           30.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions  
2   when executed cause the first system to present the user interface by presenting plural  
3   screens having user-selectable elements.

1           31.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions  
2   when executed cause the first system to receive activation of the user-selectable elements  
3   to select types of environment information to extract.

1           32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the  
2   screens comprises presenting a screen containing graphical user interface elements  
3   selectable by a user to select, for extraction, environment information associated with  
4   tables referenced by a query.

1           33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the  
2   environment information comprises receiving at least one of the following information:  
3   number of nodes in the target database system, number of processors per node, statistics,  
4   and random samples pertaining to data demographics of data stored in the target database  
5   system.

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1           34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising  
2   emulating the target database system based on the environment information.

1           35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising  
2   generating an execution plan for a query based on an emulated database environment  
3   created by emulating the target database system.

1           36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising  
2   visually displaying steps of the execution plan in the user interface.

1           37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the emulated  
2   database environment comprises plural storage modules and plural access module  
3   processors to access, in parallel, respective storage modules,  
4                wherein generating the execution plan comprises generating the execution  
5   plan for execution by the plural access module processors.

1           38.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, further comprising a  
2   controller to emulate the target database system based on the environment information,  
3   the controller to generate an emulated database environment based on the emulating.

1           39.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the controller  
2   is adapted to generate an execution plan in the emulated database environment.

1           40.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 39, wherein the controller  
2   is adapted to visually display the execution plan in the display.

1           41.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 40, wherein the controller  
2   comprises plural software modules.

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1           42.   (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 14, further comprising a  
2 controller to provide the environment information to a test system to enable emulation of  
3 the target database system by the test system.

1           43.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the first system to emulate the target database system based on the  
3 environment information.

1           44.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein receiving the  
2 environment information comprises receiving at least one of the following information:  
3 number of nodes in the target database system, number of processors per node, statistics,  
4 and random samples pertaining to data demo graphics of data stored in the target database  
5 system.

1           45.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the first system to emulate the target database system based on the  
3 environment information.

1           46.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 45, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the first system to generate an execution plan for a query based on  
3 an emulated database environment created by emulating the target database system.

1           47.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 46, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the first system to display steps of the execution plan in the user  
3 interface.

1           48.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions  
2 when executed cause the first system to provide the environment information to a test  
3 system to enable emulation of the target database system in the test system.